

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DYNAMICALLY BOUNDED  
SPINNING THREADS ON A CONTESTED MUTEX

10 A method for managing a mutex in a data processing  
system is presented. For each mutex, a count is  
maintained of the number of threads that are spinning  
while waiting to acquire a mutex. If a thread attempts  
to acquire a locked mutex, then the thread enters a spin  
state or a sleep state based on restrictive conditions  
15 and the number of threads that are spinning during the  
attempted acquisition. In addition, the relative length  
of time that is required by a thread to spin on a mutex  
after already sleeping on the mutex may be used to  
regulate the number of threads that are allowed to spin  
20 on the mutex.